

How to Watch and Participate in Oakland City Council Meetings

Even though Oakland City Council meetings are being held online right now due to Covid 19, you can still participate and make your voice heard. Here's how: (thanks to *Oaklandside* for much of this information)

How City Council Meetings Work

The City Council has eight members, seven members represent geographic districts, the Councilmember-at-Large represents the entire City. Also present at meetings are a representative from the City Attorney's office and the City Clerk. City Council meetings are regularly scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 1:30. These meetings are open to the public. Special sessions at other days and times, as well as closed sessions on certain topics such as approving lawsuit settlements, can also be held. It's always advisable to check the calendar beforehand. The online calendar can be accessed at: <https://oakland.legistar.com/calendar.aspx>

City Council also has eight four-member committees that review reports from City Staff and review policies and ordinances before they reach the full Council. The Committees and their members can be found later in this document. Committee meetings are also open to the public and their schedules and agendas can be found at the same link.

The City Council Calendar has lots of information you can use. The agenda will tell you what topics Councilmembers will be discussing and possibly voting on during that session. Reports are generally written by City staff and will give you details about the topics before Council as well as staff recommendations.

How to Watch City Council Meetings

If you want to watch Council or Committee meetings but do not want to participate, you can watch them live on TV on KTOP (Xfinity Channel 10, AT&T Channel 99). There are also lots of ways to watch online. You can:

- Stream the video by going to the calendar and clicking the "in progress" link in the "video" column.

- Download the meeting agenda from the calendar and click on the “Zoom” link on the second page under “public participation.” You can use the provided phone numbers for audio only participation.
- Follow the proceedings via Twitter by using the hashtag #oakmtg. This will not be an actual live feed of the proceedings but a mediated chronology by numerous followers.

When You Can Participate in Council Meetings

- **Before the meeting** – You can comment before the meeting by sending in an eComment. The link for doing so can be found at: <https://oakland.legistar.com/calendar.aspx> Go to the meeting in question and click on the eComment link. Your comment will not be read out loud during the meeting.
- **During the meeting** – You may comment at several times during a meeting.
 - **Public comment** – At the start of the meeting anyone may comment about an item on the agenda. When the public comment period is announced, click the “raise your hand” button on your Zoom window. The clerk will call out a series of names in groups. When your name is called, you will be allowed to speak for a limited amount of time. How much time each speaker is allowed will be announced. When your time is up, your voice will be muted on Zoom.

If you are following the meeting via a phone line, press *9 to sign up and *6 to unmute yourself.
 - **Open Forum** – At the end of the agenda the public can speak on any topic during Open Forum. Time is again limited and the procedures for speaking are the same as they are during public comment.

How to Contact Councilmembers: If you want to contact your Councilmember but do not know who that is, enter your address in the search box at: <http://gisapps1.mapoakland.com/councildistricts/> If you wish to contact all of the Councilmembers at the same time, you can do so by emailing them at: council@oaklandca.gov

Name	District	Phone	Email	Staff	Staff Contact	Social Media	Newsletter
Rebecca Kaplan	At Large	510-238-7008	rkaplan@oaklandca.gov	Ana Tellez	AMTellez@oaklandca.gov	F, T	
				Desmond Jeffries	Djeffries@oaklandca.gov		
Dan Kalb	1	510-238-7001	dkalb@oaklandca.gov	Olga Bolotina	Obolotina@oaklandca.gov	F, T	Y
				Deidra Moss	Dmoss@oaklandca.gov		
				Keira O'Deherty	kodoherty@oaklandca.gov		
Nikki Fortunato Bas	2	510-238-7002	nfbas@oaklandca.gov	Lia Azul Salaverry	Lsalaverry@oaklandca.gov	F, T, I	Y
				Tiffany Kang	tkang@oaklandca.gov		
Carroll Fife	3	510-238-7003	cfife@oaklandca.gov	Rediat Bayeh	RBayeh@oaklandca.gov	F, T, I	N
				Justin Tombolesi	jtomblesi@oaklandca.gov		
Sheng Thao	4	510-238-7004	district4@oaklandca.gov	Amauri Collins-McMurray	acollins-mcmurray@oaklandca.gov	F, T, I	Y
Noel Gallo	5	510-238-7005	Ngallo@oaklandca.gov	Debra Israel	Disrael@oaklandca.gov	F, T	
				Luis Ortega	Lortega@oaklandca.gov		
				Preston Turner	pjturner@oaklandca.gov		
				Emilia Ordaz-Salto	eordaz-salto@oaklandca.gov		

Loren Taylor	6	510-238-7306	District6@oaklandca.gov	Rowena Brown	RBrown3@oaklandca.gov	F, T, I	Y
Treva Reid	7	510-238-7007	Treid@oaklandca.gov	Rosa Velazquez	rvelazquez@oaklandca.gov	F, I	Y
				Haley Hester	hhester@oaklandca.gov		

City Council Committees – Committee Chairs are in bold.

Committee	Leadership and Members
Finance and Management	Chairperson: Rebecca Kaplan Members: Nikki Fortunato Bas, Treva Reid, Sheng Thao
Public Works	Chairperson: Noel Gallo Members: Dan Kalb , Loren Taylor, Sheng Thao
Community and Economic Development (CED)	Chairperson: Dan Kalb Members: Carroll Fife, Noel Gallo, Loren Taylor
Life Enrichment	Chairperson: Loren Taylor Members: Nikki Fortunato Bas, Carroll Fife, Rebecca Kaplan
Public Safety	Chairperson: Carroll Fife Members: Noel Gallo, Rebecca Kaplan, Treva Reid
Rules and Legislation	Chairperson: Sheng Thao Members: Nikki Fortunato Bas, Carroll Fife, Dan Kalb
City Port Liaison	Chairperson: Rebecca Kaplan Members: Nikki Fortunato Bas, Carroll Fife, Treva Reid
Education Partnership	Chairperson: Treva Reid Members: Noel Gallo, Dan Kalb , Loren Taylor

If you wish to contact the Mayor, Libby Schaaf, you can do so at: **510-238-3141** or officeofthemayor@oaklandca.gov

If you wish to contact the City Administrator, Ed Reiskin, you can do so at: **510-238-3301** or cityadministratorsoffice@oaklandca.gov

